Pathological evaluation of axillary lymph nodes in breast cancer

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Axillary lymph node evaluation in patients with breast cancer is an essential part of the staging process that provides important prognostic information. Meticulous pathological reporting of lymph nodes that have been removed during surgery is key to communicating this information. The International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) recently published the dataset on axillary nodes which standardizes interpretation, ensuring relevant parameters, encompassing both core and non-core elements, are included into the pathology report. This dataset, which can be globally applied, is developed for the reporting of lymph node dissection, targeted axillary surgery, nodal sampling and sentinel node biopsy specimens. This presentation will summarize the main reporting items and the evidence base for their determination.